

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the allowance of Claim 17 if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. By the present *Response and Amendment* (hereinafter, "*Response*"), Claims 2, 4, 6, 8-9, 13-14, 16-17, 19, and 23-45 are canceled, without prejudice. Claim 1 is amended to incorporate each and every element of Claim 17, i.e., the newly amended Claim 1 is an equivalent of Claim 17 rewritten into an independent form following the Examiner's suggestion. Claims 3, 5, and 7 are also amended.

Applicant respectfully submits that the amendment to the claims following the Examiner's suggestion place the Application in condition for allowance. It is respectfully requested that the Examiner reconsider the Application in view of the following remarks.

REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1, 3-5, 7-9, 10-12, 15, 16, 18, 20-22, 24, 33-35, 37-39, AND 41-45 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1, 3-5, 7-9, 10-12, 15, 16, 18, 20-22, 24, 33-35, 37-39, and 41-45 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 3,538,020 to Heskett et al. ("Heskett"), in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,936,394 to Kusanose et al. ("Kusanose"), and "admissions of the Specification" of the present patent application. Applicant respectfully submits that, by the present *Response*, the rejection is overcome.

REJECTION OF CLAIM 8 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Heskett in view of Kusanose and "admissions of the Specification" of the present patent application, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,352,579 to Hirata et al. ("Hirata"). Applicant respectfully submits that, by the present *Response*, the rejection is overcome.

REJECTION OF CLAIMS 7, 9, 12, 18, 20-22, 24, 33, AND 42-44 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 7, 9, 12, 18, 20-22, 24, 33, and 42-44 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Heskett and further in view of Kusanose. Applicant respectfully submits that, by the present *Response*, the rejection is overcome.

REJECTION OF CLAIMS 10 AND 40 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 10 and 40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over

Heskett in view of Kusanose and "admissions of the Specification" of the present patent application, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,057,488 to Koper et al. ("Koper"). Applicant respectfully submits that, by the present *Response*, the rejection is overcome.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Examiner stated that Claim 17 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant again thanks the Examiner for the allowability of Claim 17. As all remaining claims ultimately depend from Claim 1 (amended to include the recitation of Claim 17), all remaining claims are believed allowable.

FEES

This *Response* is being filed within three months of the *Office Action*, thus no extension fees are believed due. This *Response* leaves the present application with one (1) independent claim, and less than twenty (20) total claims, and thus no claim fees are believed due.

Nonetheless, should any fees be due, authorization to charge deposit account No. 20-1507 is hereby expressly given.

CONCLUSION

By the present *Response*, the Application has been in placed in full condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests early and favorable action. Should the Examiner have any further questions or reservations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned Attorney at 404.885.2773.

Certificate of Transmission:

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being submitted by e-filing to the US Patent and Trademark Office in accordance with §1.8 on this date via the EFS-Web electronic filing system.

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17 August 2007

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Respectfully submitted,

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